



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**TUMORS OF THE LUNGS AND MEDIASTINUM**—B. M. Fried, M.D., F.C.C.P., Associate Attending Physician, Montefiore Hospital; Associate Visiting Physician, Morrisania City Hospital, New York, New York. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1958. 467 pages, \$13.50.

This monograph deals in systematic fashion with primary cancer of the lungs, rarer intrathoracic tumors and mediastinal tumors.

After chapters dealing with histiogenesis and classification, there are two chapters on etiology, one on clinical manifestations, two on metastases, two on diagnostic procedures, one on pulmonary function and two on therapy (surgical and radiological). The latter were contributed respectively by Dr. T. H. Burford, surgeon, St. Louis, and Dr. H. W. Jacox, radiologist, New York.

There are then chapters on adenoma, rare tumors, pleural tumors and a series of five chapters on mediastinal tumors and cysts.

Under classification, the author describes the usual common primary bronchial tumors (squamous cell, adenocarcinoma and undifferentiated carcinoma), but does not deal with a systematic method of *staging* such as that suggested by experienced investigators at the Third National Cancer Conference (see Proceedings, published by Lippincott, Philadelphia, 1957, pages 524 and 525). When primary bronchial carcinoma is staged in a systematic fashion, comparison of results at one institution may better be made with those at another.

The possibility of more refined preoperative diagnosis of solitary pulmonary nodules is not considered in detail, although the value of such is now recognized by many clinicians. Indeed, in the clinical section, there are some curious statements such as, "There has probably never been a case of cancer of the lung which has not been diagnosed at the outset as pneumonia" (page 90). Further, the relative proportion of solitary pulmonary tumors which are due to malignant neoplasm is based primarily on surgical-hospital material rather than on total clinical material. The author gives a percentage of approximately 29 for solitary round lesions (page 38), when extensive experiences such as those of Holin of Cleveland have shown the figure to be closer to 3 per cent.

The section on surgical treatment is well written. That on radiotherapy contains important points such as, "There is no difference in the cancericidal effects of 2000 kv., radium, cobalt 60 or 250 kv. radiation." Since the author of this section has had considerable experience with megavoltage, and since the cost of the latter to patients far exceeds that of orthovoltage radium therapy, his observation merits noting. There is, of course, no valid statistical evidence that megavoltage radiotherapy is any better for curative or palliative treatment of primary lung cancer than is orthovoltage (200 kv.).

In the section on radioactive isotope therapy, the fact that nitrogen mustard is preferable to isotopes is stressed. In

the section on diagnosis there is a typographical error that merits correction: The author refers to a diagnostic dose of 300 millicuries of iodine<sup>131</sup>, when of course microcuries is meant (page 180).

The author states that most observers today are of the opinion that thymoma is invariably a benign neoplasm, but does concede that some clinicians regard a few of these lesions as malignant.

In view of the increasing incidence of primary lung cancer, this monograph should be of value to practicing physicians in many disciplines. The work is well printed and illustrated, and has an adequate index.

L. HENRY GARLAND, M.B.

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**ATOMIC MEDICINE**—Third Edition—Edited by Charles F. Behrens, M.D., F.A.C.R.; Rear Admiral, MC, U. S. Navy (Ret.); Roentgenologist, Yater Clinic, Washington D. C.; Consultant and Lecturer in Radiology, U. S. Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland; Formerly Director, Atomic Defense Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department; Commanding Officer, Navy Medical Research Institute, National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1959. 705 pages, \$15.00.

This very well written book now in its third edition contains twenty-four chapters of 705 pages. There are twenty-five contributors to this volume. The first edition was published in 1949, the second edition in 1953, and this third edition in 1959.

There are few scientific fields in which such rapid changes are being continually made as in the field of atomic medicine. This third edition has required extensive revision or rewriting of most of the previous chapters in order to attempt to keep abreast of the new changes. There is a great deal of practical information in this book both for the specialist and nonspecialist. Some of the chapters in this book contain a great deal of useful up-to-date information for all physicians concerning the fundamental biology of ionizing radiation, the pathologic anatomy of total body irradiation, the hematology of ionizing radiation, a detailed report considering the effects of acute whole body radiation injury, the diagnosis and treatment of acute radiation injury, radiation protection, survival methods in atomic disaster, and clinical methods of radio-isotope employment.

There are forty-seven pages containing much useful information concerning symbols, units and definitions, and tables regarding isotopes. Most of the chapters list numerous excellent references to which the reader can refer for additional information.

Of all the numerous publications on this subject, this one volume on *Atomic Medicine* has continued to maintain its high standards. The up-to-date, well documented material has been excellently written, well illustrated, and is one of the outstanding books in this field.

JUSTIN J. STEIN, M.D.